

NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

PROVINCE RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING PRINCIPALS

VICTORIA – Education Minister Shirley Bond has recognized the B.C. recipients of the Canada's Outstanding Principal Award in the legislature as part of Education Week.

"These five principals have all shown a great deal of vision and leadership, in their schools, districts and the province," said Bond. "We truly are fortunate to have such remarkable educators in B.C.'s schools."

The awards are presented by The Learning Partnership, a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to championing a strong public education system in Canada.

B.C.'s five recipients are:

- Clyde Dougans, principal at Chilliwack Central elementary.
- Chris Harvey, principal at Arbutus middle school in Victoria.
- Scott McLean, principal at Springvalley middle school in Kelowna.
- Sandra Sellick, formerly principal at Anne McClymont elementary in Kelowna.
- Janet Slaney, principal at Rutland elementary school in Kelowna.

B.C.'s outstanding principals are among 32 national recipients of the Canada's Outstanding Principals Award. The award program honours the extraordinary contributions of dynamic education leaders in publicly funded schools. The award recipients have made a measurable difference in the lives of their students and their own local communities and help ensure that Canada's young people continue to receive a quality education.

Government is working to make B.C. the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent. Since 2000-01, the Province has increased funding to B.C. public schools by over \$1 billion: \$667 million in operating grants and \$407 million in one-time grants. During the same period, enrolment is projected to have declined by over 50,000 students.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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BACKGROUND

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B.C. PRINCIPALS NAMED CANADA'S OUTSTANDING PRINCIPALS

Chris Harvey, Arbutus middle school (Victoria)

Harvey began his teaching career 30 years ago in Bella Coola working as an elementary and secondary school educator before starting his administrative career as principal at Bella Coola elementary. He has spent the last 17 years in the Greater Victoria School District, where he has been principal of several schools, including the reconfigured Arbutus middle school. Harvey has maintained a teaching focus during most of his career and is currently teaching a Math 8 class. In addition to being heavily involved in the district's middle school development, Harvey was the co-chair of last year's Middle Years Association of B.C. annual conference. In August, Chris will begin his new position as associate superintendent in the Greater Victoria school district.

Clyde Dougans, Chilliwack Central elementary

Dougans began his teaching career more than 33 years ago after his interest in teaching was fostered through volunteer work during his time as a student at Point Grey secondary school. Dougans believes that a partnership with parents and community is critical to a shared vision of student success, so in 1997 he invited 26 representatives from local organizations to participate in a formalized school steering committee at Central elementary.

A process of community involvement continued and led to establishing a society and receiving a community school designation, opening the door to daily programming and no-cost summer activities for the inner-city population. Since then, the community school programs have grown and are now captured under one umbrella known as The Gateway Project. Dougans will be retiring from the teaching profession in December to work on his hobby farm and continue his work with charitable organizations in the community.

Scott McLean, Springvalley middle school (Kelowna)

McLean, principal at Springvalley middle, began his teaching career in Alberta 18 years ago and began teaching in Kelowna in 1995. During his tenure, he has introduced programs geared to meet the needs of at-risk students; overseen a library expansion, which made it the hub of the school; worked with staff to develop literacy programs to improve student achievement and worked with staff to develop social responsibility goals that saw students doing service projects that benefited the school and community. From 2004-2006, McLean served as the president of the Central Okanagan Principal's and Vice Principal's Association.

Sandra Sellick, Currently on education/research leave (Kelowna)

Sellick has been a principal for the past 17 years, most recently at Anne McClymont elementary school. While she was at Anne McClymont, the school received the exemplary reading program award for B.C. from the International Reading Association. Sellick's school improvement initiatives have focused on enriching students' writing and reading comprehension through the use of performance standards, empathy, and engagement in science. Sellick has a lifelong commitment to her own learning, having completed degrees at Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria and Nova Southeastern University, including a doctorate in educational leadership.

Janet Slaney, Rutland elementary school (Kelowna)

In 1993, after five years of teaching, Slaney ventured into the realm of administration. Since then, her focus has been on maintaining a positive connection with students outside of the principal's office. Slaney worked closely with her staff at Rutland elementary school to create the Literacy Initiative Program, which divides the students into homogeneous groups for one period a day, to receive direct instruction in the area of greatest concern. This has provided her with the opportunity to work with several small groups of students across the grade spectrum in a variety of curriculum, maintaining her connection to the students.

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